(c) the details of the projects pending with the Central Government for approval/sanction indicating estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) 12 Nos. of projects amounting to Rs.3390.17 lakhs during the year 2000-2001 and 13 Nos. of projects amounting to Rs.4519.00 lakhs during the year 2001-2002 have been sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir. So far a sum of Rs.1474.31 lakhs has been released under the Central Roads Funds Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Nil.

National Highway between Gopalpur and Raipur

1342. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct a National Highway between Gopalpur in Orissa and Raipur in Chhattisgarh:

(b) if so, the progress of work in this regard alongwith the details of land acquired and plan prepared for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for time-bound implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI):

(a) to (c) The road between Gopalpur in Orissa and Raipur in Chhattisgarh has been declared as National Highway No. 217 *vide* Notification No. S.O. 923(E) dated 12th October,2000 and entrusted to the respective State Governments *vide* Notification S.O.350(E) dated 23rd April,2001. Average land width available for development of this NH is 20m. Development of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up in a phased manner depending on availability of funds and *inter*-se-priority.

Maintenance of NH-215

1343. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people of Orissa are very much agitated due to non-development and maintenance of National Highway-215;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in repair and development of the National Highway; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to allocate adequate funds to complete the work pertaining to development and repair of the National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]:

(a) There is no information regarding agitation by people of Orissa due to non-development and maintenance of National Highway No. 215.

(b) Does no arise.

(c) Works to the tune of Rs 12.38 crores have been sanctioned for improvement of about 81km. length of this National Highway. Further development works on NH-215 will be taken up in phases. For development and maintenance of National Highways in Orissa a sum of Rs. 70 crores and 35.11 crores respectively have been allotted to the State Government which includes development and maintenance of National Highway No. 215 also.

Conversion of State Roads into National Highways in Gujarat

1344. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for conversion of State roads into National Highways received from Gujarat from 1997 to 2001;

(b) the proposals approved so far;

(c) the length of roads, falling under National Highways, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) the road length per 100 square kilometers, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide more allocation to those States which are below national average of road length in terms of National Highways?